

Applicant Name Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Forestry Division
Project Name Community Tree-Planting Grants

Project Abstract

The goal of the Community Tree-Planting Grants project is to increase the number of urban trees in Montana's communities. This will be accomplished by providing subgrants to Montana cities, counties, and tribes for new tree-planting projects on public lands within municipal boundaries with the goal of increasing present tree population by at least 10%. Trees are a major capital asset and long-term investment in cities and towns. Just as streets, sidewalks, sewers, public buildings, and recreational facilities are part of a community's infrastructure, so are publicly owned trees. Urban trees provide tangible physical, social, economic, and renewable resource benefits to communities. Communities can promote energy efficiency through urban tree-planting and stewardship programs that strategically locate trees to save energy and minimize conflicts with urban infrastructure. These same trees can provide additional benefits by reducing stormwater runoff; improving local air, soil, and water quality; reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide; increasing property values; calming traffic; enhancing community attractiveness and investment; and promoting health and well-being. Trees in the urban environment make Montana communities more livable and thus improve the quality of life for all Montana citizens.

The Montana Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is requesting \$100,000 from the DNRC, Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) to fund tree-planting projects in Montana's communities. Subgrants would be available to communities that demonstrate projects focusing on new tree-planting activities, serve the citizens of their community, involve local volunteers, and provide a 1:1 matching cash and/or in-kind contribution.

The goals associated with the Community Tree-Planting Grants projects as proposed by the UCF program, run parallel to those of the DNRC-RRGL program. Both seek to conserve and protect the quality of Montana's renewable resources in both the urban and rural environment through proper management and further development of Montana's urban renewable resources.